

Message Text

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53

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-07 IO-14 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 NIC-01 DRC-01 /083 W
----- 095915

R 140836Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2871

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1688

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT KS KN

SUBJECT: ANTI-NORTH RALLY DIVIDES PROTESTANT LEADERSHIP

1. ANTI-NORTH KOREAN RALLY MARCH 10 BY PROTESTANT CHURCH MEMBERS HAS LED TO INTERNAL STRAINS WITHIN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY. PRESS, RADIO, AND TV DESCRIBED RALLY AS SPONSORED BY NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES (NCCC) AND REPORTED THAT 50,000 CHRISTIAN PARTICIPANTS DENOUNCED NORTH FOR FEB 15 FISHING BOT SINKING AND DEMANDED RETURN CAPTURED FISHERMEN. PRIVATE ESTIMATE OF CROWD BETWEEN 10-15,000.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS RALLY WAS LED BY REV. KIM KI-TONG, NEWLY ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE NCCC. PROTESTANT SOURCE HAS TOLD US THAT RALLY HELD AT GOVERNMENT REQUEST WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE NCCC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. PROGRAM ALSO LISTED WITHOUT PERMISSION AS SPONSORS MANY WELL-KNOWN CHURCH LEADERS AND CRITICS OF PRESENT SYSTEM WHO HAD NO CONNECTION WITH RALLY.

3. ONE SOURCE REPORTS THAT MCUI MINISTER YUN
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CHU-YONG TOLD GENERAL SECRETARY KIM KWAN-SUK

THAT ROKG WANTED NCCC-K SPONSOR RALLY.
SOURCE CLAIMED KIM
APPARENTLY WENT AHEAD WITHOUT CONSULTING EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE.

4. ROKG USE OF NCCC IN ANTI-NORTH KOREAN PROPAGANDA
CAMPAIGN HAS BROUGHT NCCC AND KIM KWAN-SUK UNDR FIRE
WITHIN CHURCH CIRCLES. IN FACT, ROLE OF KIM
KWAN-SUK IN ORGANIZATION OF RALLY IS NOT YET CLEAR.
MISSIONARY SOURCE CLOSE TO KIM DENIED THAT KIM
DIRECTLY PARTICIPATED IN RALLY, BUT REPORTS THAT KIM DID
OBSERVE FROM SIDELINES. HOWEVER, KIM
PERSONALLY AND NCCC ARE NOW THE FOCUS OF INTERNAL
CONTROVERSY WITHIN PROTESTANT LEADERSHIP CIRCLES.
HABIB

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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